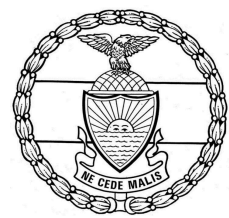


THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 7



HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT LEURYS ACOSTA, CHAIRPERSON KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGER

VETERANS AFFAIRS & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chair:	Chad Royer
Meeting Date:	May 20, 2026
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	<u>Tracey Towers</u> 40 West Mosholu Parkway South, Bronx, NY 10468 (Building 40, Community Room B)
Members In Attendance:	✓ Chad Royer ✓ Alfred Grant ✓ Jean Hill ✓ Deahna Penn ✓ Craig Rijkaard _ Jake Wilson ✓ Tobie Buford
Minutes done by:	Chad Royer

Minutes:

I. Introduction

II. Review Of Previous Minutes

- A. The April 15, 2026 meeting minutes were approved, motioned by Jean Hill, seconded by Craig Rikjaard.

III. Review From Previous Meeting:

- A. The Bronx Victory Memorial Flagging event took place on Sunday, May 17, 2026. Several people who attended the event enjoyed it, but showed concern and frustration over the event being cut short due to the Bronx Week Parade starting earlier. The committee would like the event to continue every year and maintain the one-hour time slot to ensure that all parts of the run of show are carried out without interruption.

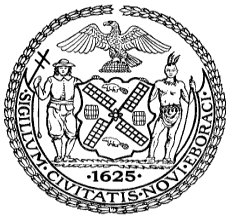
IV. New Business

- A. MJHS Health System Hospice Care Presentation - Ashton Stewart, Veterans Program Manager and Veteran Service Officer
1. MJHS works with hospice and home care programs. Hospice is the last opportunity for the Veteran to be made aware of what they are eligible for.

THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT:

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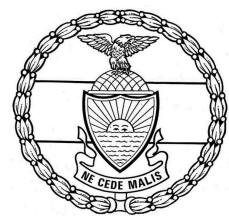
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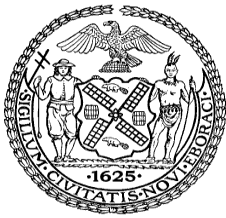
They have a resource guide that highlights the benefits that apply to Veterans and their families.

2. Various health conditions are recognized by the VA for the Veterans who served in Vietnam or the Gulf Wars, and exposure to Agent Orange, burn pits.
 3. MJHS recently conducted a training session with the city council on a new pocket card developed by MJHS and the New York State Department of Veterans Services. The idea came about when it was discovered that only 2% of providers in New York State inquire about military service. The 7 essential questions for reaching out to a Veteran to get help are the following:
 - a) Did you serve in the military?
 - b) Is it okay if I talk with you about your military experience?
 - c) Would you like to hear about veterans' services that you may be eligible for?
 - d) Are you, or have you ever been, enrolled in the VA for healthcare?
 - e) Do you have a copy of your DD214 (discharge document)?
 - f) Did you experience trauma while serving?
 - g) During service, did you receive unwanted attention, nonconsensual sexual contact, or touching?
 4. Vet-To-Vet Café is a quarterly program where the community becomes part of the discussion of providing support to Veterans, family members, and caregivers. The next one is on June 22, 2026, from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, via Zoom and in person. All are welcome to join.
 5. Help is available in acquiring advanced planning documents, such as a will, health proxy, etc.
 6. Ashton Stewart can be reached at ashstewa@mjhs.org and at 917-588-4398.
- B. Lehman College's Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Campaign Presentation - Michelle Velez, Double Graduate of Lehman College

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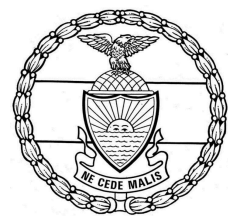
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1. Lehman College is running a campaign with the Lehman Prevention Collaborative (LPC), a group focused on the prevention and reduction of alcohol and drug use. The areas of interest include Bronx communities, especially the Kingsbridge and Bedford Park areas.
2. The current community awareness campaign is "Do You Know," and the goal is to share clear, simple, and helpful information with the community about safer decision-making on alcohol prevention and awareness of New York City's open-container laws. Many people were unaware that possession or consumption of alcohol in public places like streets, parks, and sidewalks can lead to summonses or fines, and the campaign aims to educate the public, prevent harm, reduce confusion, and encourage safer choices.
3. The flyers for the campaign are meant to be posted in places where community members can see them, like local businesses, schools, parks, sidewalks, and other community spaces. Additional campaigns will run this year, and the next will start in a few weeks.
4. Safe server training is available for businesses that would like to take it for free. LPC is looking for community spaces to host the training so more people can participate.
5. Lehman Prevention Collaborative can be contacted at Lehman.LPC@gmail.com

C. Committee Discussion on Legislation Ideas

1. The discussion on legislative ideas was tabled for a future meeting.

V. Announcements

- A. The Woodlawn Cemetery will have an event where community members can place flags at the gravesites of fallen Veterans. The event will take place on Friday, May 22, 2026, at 10:00 am at 3800 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, New York, 10470.

VI. Next Meeting Date: June 17, 2026

VII. Discussion on Next Agenda:

VIII. Adjournment

- A. Motion to adjourn meeting by Jean Hill, seconded by Deahna Penn.

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